

JORD - Interview with Jörgen Ström on TNT RADIO

"Tundra" is your third album, first for the Hammerheart Records label. Before talking about him, let's get to know JORD a little, if you like.

Jörgen Ström, founder of Jord, recorded the band's first two solo albums. What were the beginnings of this project like? What was his initial idea when forming Jord?

- Where I lived at the time I had close access to a lot of forest. And on my almost daily long walks there this project started to form. I just needed a musical project to do exactly what I wanted to do. And the best way to get something done is to do it yourself as I've learned. First it felt too scetchy with mixing all these genres. But having heard Alcests album Kodama not so long before that i felt confident enough to try and make it work. Then the songs just poured out. First album "Sol" only took six weeks to write, record, mix and send it to record labels.

In their music, they fuse atmospheric black metal with other genres. What elements of these genres do you think they add to your music and what are their most direct influences?

- It's mostly the atmospheric and meditative guitarmelodies that its all about for me. Thats where the icing on the cake lies. And then you add the black metal drums and bass to it which is the backbone of the songs.

I listen to all kinds of melodic music no matter what kind of genre it is. And i get inspired to write my own melodies from that. God Is An Astronaut, Slowdive, Anathema is is bands that are incredible at writing enchanting melodies for example.

If we take their first album "Sol" (2021) as a reference, with a rawer sound, and compare it with their new album Tundra, much richer in nuances and sounds... How would they describe the evolution of their sound from their first days until now? ?

- This was sort of the plan from the beginning. First album to get my songs recorded and start to learn more about recording and producing music basically. The second album to take what I've learned and try to make it better.

The third album is gonna be the one to summarize it all with a band and a professional studio. This was my wish early on and so far it goes as planned. And lyrically its kind of a trilogy that tells a story.

You have mentioned that you are inspired by nature and the earth to create your songs. In fact, your name has a very direct connection with this, Jord means earth/soil in Swedish. How do these elements influence your music and lyrics?

- Yes it influences me a lot. Probably more than anything else. When you sit in a forest or on top of a mountain and just listen for a while you can hear almost like a symphony with all the sounds that the forest, animals and the wind can produce. I want to learn more about that and I don't know where its gonna take me in the future but i know there is a lot more out there to explore. Back to nature.

Let's talk about Tundra, what is it and what does it represent for Jord?

- It is the final chapter of a story you could say. First album i had to face myself and get closer to Mother Earth. Find out where i need to go, what to see and experience. The second album is about a journey where i explore other places, country's and dealing with how to live a simple life and what it really means to live in solitude. A lot of darkness and light in both albums.

The third *Tundra* is about me coming home to where i belong basically. And i tell the story with the help of old mythology and folklore mixed in there.

For this work Tundra, he already recorded with two musicians, Sebastian Svedlund (guitar) and Stefan Jansson (drums). What has changed in your idea to not continue working alone?

- It was necessary to bring in more people to the project, not only with band mates, but also with Micke Andersson recording and producing the album. I couldn't do this album on my own. Both for the albums sound qualities and the process of working with other people. I'm a lone wolf in every aspect of life basically, and Im very comfortable with that. But i also see potential in interacting with others and i want to be better at that.

Tundra was already composed when you joined Jord, or have you participated in the composition, and to what extent has the entry of new musicians been able to change or enrich the sound of the band?

I still write everything both music and lyrics. Sebastian and Jansson both contribute alot with their musicianship. Im very happy that they both accepted to join. I wouldn't want anyone else. They add rhythm, timing and an overall feel to the songs that only they can.

Let's talk a little about the sounds of Tundra by delving into some songs... For example, songs like "The Fall" have a brutal emotional charge, while transmitting a certain melancholy through the piano and that sad and heavy atmosphere. It is one of the songs that I liked the most, and also, I love that guitar solo... Tell me about this song, and the sensations that you wanted to convey.

- Thank you, The Fall is the only song in English on this album and it just felt natural to do so. It's a fighting song and a protest song. Since coming back to where i belong i feel more strongly to take a stand against people in power who try to destroy alot of what I believe in. And the times we live in is proof that we need to make our voices heard alot more. And the guitar solo is amazing. Sebastian have not done so much sologuitar before but I knew he could deliver and so he did. I love guitar solos but I can't do them myself, i suck at it hehe

The role that the bass plays in songs like "Själens Död" or "Mara" is very interesting. He takes center stage at times and gives another character to the overall sound of the song.

- Bass is my main instrument and i love to give it a more central role at times. The gritty, gnarly and heavy bass in contrast to delicate and soft guitar melodies is pretty cool i think.

"Vilddjurets Hjärta" shows another side of Jord, it is one of the least dense and heavy, with one of the fastest parts of the album, with different changes of rhythm.

- Yes its the pop song of the album haha. But i needed to balance it with some fast parts to make it legitimate for the album. And i like how it sounds very much.

Another song that I really liked is "Snöfödd", with that heavy rhythm, those acoustic guitars that accompany those clean voices, as if a song emerged from the depths of the forest, in an almost heavenly atmosphere, only broken by the forcefulness of those blacker parts...

- Thank you, Snöfödd is probably my personal favorite actually. It's a song that i imagine playing on a big dark stage with moodful lighting and it has alot of atmosphere to it. It's a song about snowy landscapes, a description of a tundra you could say. Hopefully we will make a cold icy video for it this winter.

"Kyla" brings out Jord's most extreme and "cold" vein, being the most direct and forceful song on "Tundra"...

- Yes its the most "black metal" song on the album. It's about Njord an old mythological giant and what he went through. And I really wanted a song for Ken Romling to do guest vocals on and this one fits his voice so well. Very happy he wanted to do it.

The album closes with "Tundra" itself, it is a short song, like a narrative, which I think is a poem. Tell me about him and his connection to the album.

- Yes it started as an instrumental song. But I wrote a short poem that i really wanted on the album somehow. So i asked my friend and bandmate Erik Molarin from another band called Dark. He have a very soothing and meditative voice. And it turned out absolutely great I think.

Lyricaly, Tundra is a journey in which stories about ancient mythological creatures and folklore are interspersed with songs critical of their government. Could you go into a little more detail about it? What specific stories inspired you?

- I get mostly interested in individuals of the old stories and how they still are relevant. Like the *Mara* who is a creature driven by jealousy and just being mean and can take many forms and shapes if she likes. Like some people do today. It can become a metaphor for relations and interactions that you face today. I like to see parallels with the past and present. Not much changes over time. We just dress the future in a new suit. People today have the same problems and challenges as the people 2000 years ago.

What song from "Tundra" did you most enjoy creating and why?

- Yea Snöfödd is my favorite closely to The Fall which is also a favorite. But Snöfödd have more of everything. I started with the opening riff and first it felt more like a stoner song or something. But i kept working with complementary melodies and when i found the clean guitar melody that's embellishing that first riff it changed to the better for this album. The Fall was the better first single though.

"Tundra" will be released on November 3rd. What feelings and expectations do you have?

- Im very excited to hear what people think about it. And i hope it can generate more live shows for us next year. We really want to get out and play live now.

Finally, congratulations on this excellent "Tundra". What message would you give to those who are reading this interview?

- Thank you very much for the interview, much appreciated!

If you like our music share it if you can, and tell your local promoters to book us for live shows! We want to meet our listeners.

We are so far booked for Dark Troll Festival in Germany next year. And there will be more to come.

Cheers!

Jurg/Jord